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\*Admitted only in Maryland  
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\*Practice limited to Federal Agencies

October 28, 2002

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Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Art Unit 1638

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application  
Appl. No. 09/646,679; Filed: February 22, 2001  
For: **Signal Transduction Protein Involved in Plant Dehiscence**  
Inventors: PAUL *et al.*  
Our Ref: 0623.0890000/LBB/PAC

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Fee Transmittal Form;
2. Petition for Extension of Time;
3. Reply to Restriction Requirement;
4. Third Preliminary Amendment;
5. Our check no. 37130 for \$502.00; and
6. One (1) return postcard.

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It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents  
October 28, 2002  
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The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



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LBB/PAC:drb  
Enclosures